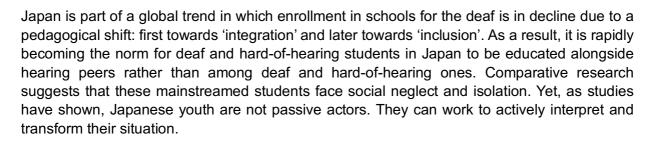
## German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) DIJ Social Science Study Group

Wednesday, July 10th, 2019, 18:30h



## **Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Students in Mainstream Japanese Schools**

Jennifer M. McGuire, Doshisha University



This presentation focuses on the results of a 15-month ethnographic study on young (18 to 24 year-old) Japanese self-identified 'inte' (a shortened version of the loanword for integration) who were educated in 'hearing schools'. By using a range of qualitative research methods including 'peer interviews', participant observation, interviews, questionnaires, and social media analysis, it interrogated the short and long-term effects of 'mainstreaming' on selfhood, communication methods, and ibasho. Through an actor-centered approach that prioritizes the perspectives of inte over those of the gatekeepers, this research aims to shed light on the ways in which marginalized young people exercise agency to (re)negotiate difference in mainstream environments. The findings reveal that inte are educated in environments where there are physiological and social barriers to belonging. At the same time, they employ tactics and strategies to improve their circumstances, such as concealing markers of difference, rejecting information support, performing 'communication competence', and mimicry. The outcome of these performative methods is rarely social belonging but rather an in-between, 'grey zone' status.

**Jennifer M. McGuire** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology in the Faculty of Social Studies at Doshisha University. She received a DPhil (PhD) in Anthropology from the University of Oxford. Her main research interest concerns the intersections of language, identity, and belonging for minority youth, particularly those who are deaf/hard-of-hearing or 'disabled'. Her current project analyzes representations of deafness and disability in media and film.

## About:

The DIJ Social Science Study Group is a forum for scholars conducting research on contemporary Japan. Meetings are held once a month and are open to speakers from all disciplines of the social sciences. The event is open to all. Registration is not necessary but appreciated, online at <a href="https://www.dijtokyo.org">www.dijtokyo.org</a>.

## <u>Venue:</u>

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) Jōchi Kioizaka Bldg. 2F, 7-1 Kioichō, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0094

Phone: 03-3222-5077

For directions visit dijtokyo.org/access

